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Date: 03/23/11

CORNELL NOTETAKING

Key Words

- 1) Use wheel for transportation
- 2) Improve the process of pottery making
- 3) Produce copper in quantities large enough to make weapons and tools
- 4) Irrigate fields
- 5) Study the stars
- 6) Develop engineering skills.
- 7) Develop an efficient numbering system.

Main Ideas/Supporting Ideas

- Used in Mesopotamia c. 3550 BCE
- 1st used to make pottery, still used today
- Later used with plough carts, chariots
- Vehicles pulled by donkey or oxen
- Sumerians used kilns - an oven for baking pottery and bricks
- Possible to produce very high temperatures in a kiln
- Pottery and bricks are much harder and durable than ones dried by the sun
- Combine copper and tin to make bronze
- Used to produce tools that were stronger than ones made by copper
- Superior tools helped the Sumerians build bigger stronger boats and land vehicles
- Sumerians traded with people in faraway places like Japan
- Simply carried water from the rivers to the field
- They dug channels and canals for the water to flow from the river to the fields
- Priest calculated the best time for tilled fields and planting and harvesting crops
- Created a calendar with 2 seasons: summer and winter
- Based on phases of the moon 12 months 30 days
- Used knowledge of math to build huge temples and complex systems of canals, dikes, and ditches
- Invented a number system of 60: used by astronauts until 1600
- Used today for measuring angles and time
- Developed a system that separated the symbol for five and symbol for oil
- Five barrels of oil would represent the symbol for five and symbol for oil
- Helpful when dealing large quantities

Connections and Reflections (Summary)

The Sumerians made many different inventions before we did, and yet we still used them today. A connection that I have is that the Sumerians used wheels for transportation and my family still uses wheels for transportation like cars and buses.